

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 859

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR GR TU US

SUBJ: GREEK NEWSPAPER REPORT CLAIMS THAT ACCORDING TO A US  
CONGRESSMAN PRESIDENT FORD IS COMPLETELY COMMITTED TO TURKEY

1. THE LEAD-STORY IN THE SUNDAY OCTOBER 12 CONSERVATIVE,  
PRO-GOVERNMENT AKROPOLIS (WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN CARRYING SOME  
BALANCED AND EVEN PRO-AMERICAN ARTICLES IN RECENT MONTHS)  
WAS ENTITLED "WARNING BY AN AMERICAN CONGRESSMAN --  
EXCLUSIVE -- FORD IS A THREAT TO GREECE -- IN THE EVENT OF  
WAR WITH TURKEY HE WILL INTERVENE IN ITS FAVOR IF IT IS BEING  
DEFEATED." THE STORY IS DATELINED WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 12,  
AND PURPORTS TO BE BASED ON AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW BETWEEN  
THE PAPER'S CORRESPONDENT E. ANGELOPOULOS AND AN UNNAMED,  
AT HIS REQUEST, MEMBER OF CONGRESS.

2. PRESIDENT "FORD HAS COMPLETELY SIDED WITH THE TURKS AND,  
SO LONG AS HE REMAINS IN THE WHITE HOUSE, TURKEY WILL HAVE  
A LOYAL PROTECTOR IN THE EVENT OF A GREEK-TURKISH CONFLICT."  
A LEADING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS MADE THIS  
REVELATION, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, IN ORDER THAT THE  
RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP OF GREECE BE INFORMED ABOUT THE REAL  
DISPOSITIONS OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT.

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3. THE CONGRESSMAN REPORTEDLY REPLIED NEGATIVELY TO A QUESTION WHETHER PRESIDENT FORD WOULD ORDER US FORCES IN TURKEY OR THE SIXTH FLEET TO INTERVENE (IN A POSSIBLE) CONFLICT ON THE SIDE OF TURKEY. HOWEVER, HE ALLEGEDLY CLAIMED "IN THE EVENT TURKEY SUFFERS HEAVY LOSSES ...THE INTERVENTION OF THE SIXTH FLEET TO PREVENT ITS DEFEAT SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED. TURKEY COULD INVOKE THE CONSTITUTIONAL CHARTER OF NATO WHICH CHARACTERIZES AN ATTACK AGAINST ONE MEMBER AS AN ATTACK AGAINST ALL..."

4. THE STORY CLAIMS THE CONGRESSMAN ALSO SAID THAT PRESIDENT "FORD IS SO FANATICAL IN SUPPORT OF TURKEY THAT HE (TOLD A COLLEAGUE OF MINE)...HE WOULD NOT PREVENT THE TURKS FROM ATTACKING GREECE, BUT HE WILL PREVENT THE GREEKS FROM DESTROYING TURKISH AIR BASES... THE CONGRESSMAN IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT SECRETARY "KISSINGER IS MORE MODERATE" AND IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PRO TURKISH FEELINGS.

5. COMMENT: THIS STORY IS SO FAR-FETCHED THAT IT MAY LOOK IMPLAUSIBLE EVEN TO GREEK READERS. WE WILL BE WATCHING TO SEE WHETHER IT IS PICKED UP BY OTHER PAPERS AND WILL, AT FIRST OCCASION, POINT OUT TO ACROPOLIS EDITORS THE INHERENT ABSURDITY OF THE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO AN ANONYMOUS CONGRESSMAN. STEARNS

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